made in the Textiles Industry during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether it a fact that significant increase in exports of textile are taking place continuously; and

(c) if so, the incentives Government propose to provide to the exporters of cotton fabric and cotton yarn during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) Indian Textiles Industry comprisces of various segments, namely mill sector, powerloom handloom, sericulture, handicrafts etc. Most of these segments are in the un-organised sectors or in the organised private/sectors. Capital investment in various segments of the textile industry are made in individual units on a continuous basis. Firm figures towards capital investment being made by the industry are therefore, not available.

(b) The Exports performance of the textile sector has been quite satisfactory during the first 4 years of the VIII Five Year Plan. The value of export in US million $ in these years has exceeded the target. However, thereis a slowing down of the the growth of textile export in 1995-96 as compared to figures of previous years.

(c) The Government have provided exporters of textiles including Cotton fabric and cotton yarn the following incentives:—

(i) In order to boost textile export the Govt. have been taking a number of steps which include encouraging exporters to participate in Buyer-Seller meets, participation in fairs and exhibitions in major markets; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

(ii) The Textile Export Promotion Councils under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, have opened four One-Man Textiles Export Promotion Offices at Osaka (Japan), Malbourne (Australia), Durban (South Africa) and Sao Paulo (Brazil) to give a strong thrust to our export promotion work in these countries/regions.

(iii) As a part of overall strategy to prepare our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries, Govt. has taken widespread measures. The Textile Committee, various Textile Research Association, Export Promotion Councils and other Industry Associations have been conducting a large number of seminars, workshops and distributing information brochures to create an awareness amongst all segments of industry and trade regarding the dyes to be used for export eco-friendly textiles. Besides, eco-texting facilities have been commissioned at important production centres.

**Announcement of Cotton Export Policy**

532. DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export policy of cotton has been announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay in announcing the policy;

(c) whether prices of cotton in India are falling although production of cotton has been very low in foreign countries like China, Turkey, etc.; and

(d) the measures proposed to encourage cotton growers to get remunerative prices for their crops?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) There has been no change in the cotton export policy and as such, no new policy has been announed. Government have released, early in the current (1996-97) cotton season, a quota of 5.15 lakh bales for export.

(c) During the current cotton season prices of cotton have marginally fallen, with increased arrivals.

Lower crop estimates for China, Turkey etc. during the 1996-97 season as compared to the previous year, may have an impact on the international prices only later during the season.

(d) Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for cotton have been announced by Government. In the event that cotton on prices fall to MSP levels, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) would procure cotton at the MSP, thus protecting the growers' interest. An export quota of 5.15 lakh bales of cotton has been released by Government in the beginning of the season. At present the prices of staple cotton are reported to be 40% to 60% above the support price.

**Recruitment of Personnel in Defence Services**

533. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines laid down for recruiting personnel for the defence forces;

(b) the state-wise break-up of personnel recruited for these forces during each of the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government intend to ensure that recruitment to the forces from the different States is made as far as possible, proportionate to the population of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Recruitment in the Army is open to all sections of the society irrespective of caste, creed, language, region etc. of the candidates. The Recruitable Male Population (RMP) of various States/Union Terrritories is the basis for determining / allotting number of vacancies to differnt Zonal Recruiting Offices and Centres of the Army. The RMP comprises of those eligible males who meet the laid down qualitative requirement *i.e.* educational qualification, physical and medical standards and is reckoned as 10% of the male population of each State/Union Territory. The details of recruitment made State-wise during the last five years (year-wise) in the Army are attached as statement-I. (*See* below)

Recruitment in the Navy is made on All India basis and no RMP is fixed for any State/Union Territory. An eligible male who meets the laid down educational physical and medical standards can join the Navy as Sailor irrespective of his caste, creed, language, region etc. The details of recruitment made State-wise during the last five years (year-wise) in the Navy are attached as statement-II. (*See* below)

Recruitment in the Air Force is made on All India basis and no RMP is fixed for any State/Union Territory. Any eligible male who meets the laid down educational, physical and medical standards can join the Air Force as airman irrespective of his caste, creed, language, region etc. The details of recruitment made State-wise during the last five years (year-wise) in the Air Force are attached as Statement-III.